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Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the Sequence Listing annexed hereto as **Exhibit 2** after the Abstract of the Disclosure on page 33 of the specification.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

A 70-nt primer (primer LICAT-MELAS1) was synthesized, with the sequence:

5'- CTGCCATCTT AACAAACCC(T)<sub>30</sub> GTTTTATGCG ATTACCGGG**C**-3'  
(SEQ ID NO:6). The 19 nt at the proximal 5' end (sequence A in Fig. 1) were complementary to nt 3224-3242; the stretch of 30 T's were was the spacer sequence; and the 21 nt at the distal 3' end (sequence B in Fig. 1) were complementary to nt 3243-3263. Note that the last base of the oligonucleotide (C, in bold) is complementary to the G at nt-3243 present in pCR16.3 but not to the A at nt-3243 present in pCR16.4.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

A second primer (LICAT-MELAS2; 68 nt) was also synthesized, with the sequence:

5'-CTGCCATCTT AACAAACCC(N)<sub>28</sub> GTTTTATGCGATT ACCGGGCC-3' (SEQ ID NO:7), where N denotes any base.